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upon the universal human material of speculation and fancy its special stamp and impress. Such a manifestation is by no means necessarily conditioned by blood-kinship."

It is to be regretted that such a divergence of opinion as to the proper signification of this word exists in two branches of the same science. Does it not show the necessity of an improved terminology?

#### THE EXTINCTION OF THE POLYNESIAN.

A HUNDRED years ago the Hawaiian Islands were said to have had 400,000 native population; now 30,000 is a high estimate. The same fearful diminution has been going on through Polynesia. Dr. Tautain has recently studied its causes in the Marquesas Islands *L'Anthropologie*, 1898, No. 4). The principal are the following: (1) Leprosy, which leads to impotence and sterility; (2) tuberculosis, which is eminently contagious and destructive; (3) syphilis, which is less marked than might be supposed; (4) licentiousness, the consequences of which are very visible in developing metritis and sterility or abortion. This last is the most injurious of all the causes, and Dr. Tautain places it as the principal factor in leading to diminished natality. The total absence of sexual morality operates in many directions to undermine the viability of the race.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

#### MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory, held at Columbia University, the report of the Treasurer showed that the funds of the institution were in a satisfactory condition. Professor S. F. Clarke, of Williams College, very generously contributed \$400 to defray the expenses of certain necessary alterations and repairs in and about the laboratory buildings, and a rising vote of thanks was given, as an expression of the gratitude of the Board for the very acceptable gift.

The following minute relative to the death of Professor Peck, the Assistant Director, was unanimously adopted:

"The Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory have heard with profound sorrow of the death of their colleague, Professor James I. Peck, of Williams College. They wish to record their appreciation of the invaluable service which he rendered to the Marine Biological Laboratory, and especially to express their high regard for the generous and unfailing way in which as Assistant Director he devoted himself to the maintenance and development of the Laboratory. They feel the deepest sympathy with Williams College and with his family in the loss which both have sustained."

By special vote the Board expressed itself as favorable to the establishment of more intimate relations between the Laboratory and the *Zoological Bulletin*. Circulars explaining these relations, and announcements for the forthcoming season, will be issued to members of the Corporation, and to others interested, at an early date.

The election of an Assistant Director was referred to a committee with power, and since the meeting Dr. Ulric Dahlgren, of Princeton University, for three years one of the instructors at Woods Holl in the department of invertebrate zoology, has been appointed to the position.

H. C. BUMPUS,  
*Secretary.*

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PRESIDENT J. G. SCHURMAN and Professor Dean C. Worcester arrived at Vancouver on January 30th, and immediately embarked on the steamship 'Empress of Japan' on their way to the Philippines.

PROFESSOR D. T. MACDOUGAL, of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed to be director of the laboratories of the New York Botanical Garden. He will enter upon the duties of the new position next July, by which time it is believed the new museum building will be ready for occupancy. The laboratory system occupies the greater portion of the upper floor, connecting with the library rooms and the herbarium.

PROFESSOR G. H. DARWIN has been elected President of the Royal Astronomical Society, London.

PROFESSOR MENDELEJEV, of St. Petersburg, has been elected a correspondent in the Section

of Chemistry of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in the room of the late Professor Kékulé. Professor Mendelejev received twenty-eight votes; Professor Fischer, of Berlin, twenty-two, and Sir William Crookes, five.

It is expected that either M. Risler, Director of the Agricultural School, or M. Roux, Sub-director of the Pasteur Institute, will be elected to the chair in the Section of Agriculture of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in the room of the late M. Aimé Girard.

WE learn from *Nature* that Mr. J. G. Baker, F. R. S., has retired from the post of curator of the herbarium at Kew, in which he is succeeded by Mr. W. Botting Hemsley, F. R. S.

THE Swiney prize has been awarded for the present year to Dr. I. Dixon Mann for his book on forensic medicine and toxicology. The prize, which is awarded every fifth year by the Society of Arts and the Royal College of Physicians, is of the value of £200.

THE Geological Society, London, will this year make its awards as follows: The Wollaston Medal to Professor Charles Lapworth; the Murchison Medal to Mr. B. N. Peach, and a second Murchison Medal to Mr. John Horne; the Lyell Medal to Lieut.-General C. A. McMahon; the Bigsby Medal to Professor T. W. Edgeworth David; the Wollaston Fund to Professor J. B. Harrison; the Murchison Fund to Mr. James Bennie; the Lyell Fund is divided between Mr. Frederick Chapman and Mr. John Ward.

THE annual meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences will be held on February 27th. The President, Professor H. F. Osborn, will make the annual address, the subject being 'The Succession of Mammalian Fauna in America compared with that in Europe during the Tertiary Period.'

MR. ROBERT L. JACK, Government Geologist of Queensland, has been appointed to supervise the collection of exhibits sent by Queensland to the forthcoming Greater Britain Exhibition in London. Mr. Jack expects to reach England this month.

MR. S. A. KNAPP, a special agent of the Department of Agriculture, has arrived at San

Francisco, returning from an expedition to Asia, where he has secured seeds of agricultural products that might with advantage be cultivated in the United States.

THE St. Petersburg Academy of Medicine has elected as honorary members from Great Britain Sir William MacCormac, Sir William Turner, Lord Rayleigh, Sir William Stokes, Dr. MacEwen, Dr. Thompson and Dr. Lauder Brunton, and from Germany Professors Waldeyer, of Berlin; Streda, of Königsberg; Kühne, of Heidelberg, and Schwalba, of Strasburg.

THE death is announced at the age of 53 of Dr. Joseph Coats, since 1894 professor of pathology at the University of Glasgow. He was the author of a well-known manual of pathology and of a work on tuberculosis as well as of numerous minor contributions. The death is also announced of Sir Alfred Roberts, one of the most eminent members of the medical profession in Australia.

WE also learn with regret of the deaths of Dr. Gottlieb Gluge, emeritus professor of physiology and anatomy in the University of Brussels, at the age of 86 years, and of Dr. Constantine Voutsakis, professor of physiology in the University of Athens.

NEWS has reached Paris of the death of M. Potter, killed while making geographical explorations in Central Africa.

THE will of the late M. Louis Pierson, of Mircourt, gives 100,000 fr. to the Paris Academy of Sciences for a biennial prize to be award to the Frenchman who has made the most important discovery in physical science.

By the will of the late C. T. Mitchell, of Hillsdale, Mich., that city receives his residence and an endowment of \$10,000 for a public library.

THE Physical Society of Berlin, established in 1845, decided at its meeting of January 5th that it would hereafter be known as The German Physical Society. The object of the Society is to advance physical science by the following means: (1) The publication of proceedings especially for the prompt issue of short communications. (2) The publication of a year-book on the progress of physics. (3) Cooperation in the publication of *De Annalen*

*der Physik und Chemie.* (4) Participation in the meetings of the Section of Physics, of the German Society of Men of Science and Physicians. (5) Regular meetings in Berlin, and (6) A journal club.

THE Biological Laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, situated at Cold Spring, L. I., will open its tenth session on July 5th. The regular class work will last for six weeks, but special work may be begun earlier and continued afterwards. Dr. Charles B. Davenport, of Harvard University, is director of the laboratory, and the staff of instructors includes Dr. D. S. Johnson, of Johns Hopkins University; Professor C. P. Sigerfoos, University of Minnesota; Professor Henry S. Pratt, Haverford College; W. H. C. Pynchon, Trinity College; Nelson F. Davis, Bucknell University; Mrs. Gertrude Crotty, Davenport; Stephen R. Williams, Harvard University, and Professor Frederick O. Grover, Oberlin College.

At a meeting of the Royal Dublin Society on January 20th Sir Howard Grubb, F. R. S., Vice-President of the Society, described a plan by which the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy could be used for controlling public and other clocks.

THE Prince of Monaco reported to the Paris Academy on January 23d on the scientific results of the first expedition of his yacht, the Princess Alice II. He left Havre at the end of July and returned in the middle of September, going as far north as Spitzbergen. The fauna both of the sea and the fresh water was carefully studied. Professor Brandt, of Kiel, accompanied the expedition.

THE following lectures are being given under the auspices of Columbia University at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, on Saturday evenings: February 4th, 'The Transmission of Light in Crystals,' Professor Alfred J. Moses; February 11th, 'Characters of Minerals in Rock Sections,' Dr. Lea McL. Luquer; February 18th, 'Methods Employed in Investigation of Minerals,' Professor S. L. Penfield; February 25th, 'Testing Minerals,' Professor A. J. Moses.

THE British Treasury have approved the use of the electric light in the Natural History

Museum, South Kensington. It will be first introduced into the offices and workshops and later into the public galleries.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, it was reported that fifteen investigators are at present carrying on original research in the laboratories of the two Royal Colleges.

OFFICIALS of the Treasury Department, customs division, have decided that books are the only articles subject to duty which can be legally imported into the United States in the mails. All other dutiable mail matter must be seized. This decision may cause some inconvenience to scientific men.

THE *Publishers' Circular* records 6,008 new books published in Great Britain in 1898, 236 less than in 1897. Under the class called vaguely arts, sciences and illustrated works, 263 books were published, a decrease of 25 as compared with the preceding year. For the United States in the year named the total number of new books published amounted to 4,886, a total smaller than that of any year since 1894. On the other hand, there was an increase over 1897 of about 1,000 books in France, the number for 1898 being 14,781. As the books published in Great Britain and the United States are mostly the same it appears that France with not half the population of the Anglo-Saxon races publishes twice as many books.

THE annual meeting of the New England Anti-vivisection Society is thus reported, in part, in the *Boston Transcript*: "Back into the room again swarmed the rest of the gentlemen, and soon another wrangle was going on in which old gentlemen in silk hats talked loudly and vigorously to one another. Threats were beginning to be made—threats of violence. Secretary Brazier finally secured a hearing: 'As custodian of all the property in this room, I ask every one present to leave,' said he, and simultaneously several women arose and started to leave the room. But Mr. Greene again had the floor. 'Don't go, ladies; he has no right to order your departure.' \* \* \* Several personal altercations followed, one of which seemed about to culminate in violence, when the meeting broke up in confusion."

THE Jamaica correspondent of the *London Times* writes that a conference at Barbados, under the auspices of the new Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies was called for January 7th and 9th. The chief chemical and botanical officers in the West Indies have been invited to take part in it. These include the officers in Jamaica, British Guinea, Trinidad and Antigua as well as Barbados. The object is to devise means for the prosecution of a policy of cooperative effort in the economic interests of the various colonies. Dr. Morris, the Commissioner of Agriculture, wisely holds that the teaching of scientific agriculture, is a subject that requires very careful consideration, and has, therefore, extended the invitation to some of the principals of high schools and colleges. The delegates from Jamaica are: Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., F.L.S., Director of Public Gardens and Plantations; Mr. F. Watts, Government Analyst, and the Rev. W. Simms, M.A., Principal of University College. Among the subjects to be discussed are the cultural and chemical experiments to be undertaken to improve the saccharine contents of the sugar cane; the scientific teaching of agriculture in colleges and schools; a more skilful treatment of the soil and use of manure; and concerted action to prevent the rapid spread of fungoid and insect pests. There is no doubt that definite conclusions will be arrived at on these important points and common action determined on which may prove of the greatest possible service in developing the resources of the West Indies. Although the Imperial Department of Agriculture has been established with the specific aim of assisting the Windward and Leeward colonies and to enable experiments in cane cultivation to be carried on in continuation of former efforts in British Guiana, Barbados and Antigua, the fact that Jamaica has been invited to send representatives to the conference has been taken here as a justification for assuming that this colony may also come within the scope of its operations. It is thought that the Imperial Government should establish at least an experimental station in this island, seeing that the taxpayers already pay so much for the maintenance of a series of botanical gardens, a chemical department

and an agricultural society. Despite the existence of these organizations, practically nothing is known yet regarding the varied character and possibilities of the soil.

MR. ALBERT B. LLOYD, a young Englishman, who has just returned after traversing Stanley's great pigmy forest. He is reported by Reuter's Agency to have said: "I was 20 days walking through its gloomy shades. I saw a great many of the little pigmies, but generally speaking, they kept out of the way as much as possible. At one little place in the middle of the forest, called Holenga, I stayed at a village of a few huts occupied by so-called Arabs. There I came upon a great number of pygmies who came to see me. They told me that, unknown to myself, they had been watching me for five days, peering through the growth of the primeval forest at our caravan. They appeared to be very much frightened, and even when speaking covered their faces. I slept at this village, and in the morning I asked the chief to allow me to photograph the dwarfs. He brought ten or fifteen of them together, and I was enabled to secure a snapshot. I could not give a time exposure, as the pygmies would not stand still. Then, with great difficulty, I tried to measure them, and I found not one of them over four feet in height. All were fully developed. The women were somewhat slighter than the men, but were equally well formed. I was amazed at their sturdiness. Their arms and chest were splendidly developed, as much so as in a good specimen of an Englishman. These men have long beards halfway down the chest, which imparts to them a strange appearance. They are very timid and cannot look a stranger in the face. Their eyes are constantly shifting as in the case of monkeys. They are fairly intelligent. I had a long talk with the chief, and he conversed intelligently about the extent of the forest and the number of his tribe. I asked him several times about the Belgians, but to these questions he made no reply. Except for a tiny strip of bark cloth, men and women are quite nude. They are armed with bows and arrows—the latter tipped with deadly poison—and carry small spears. They are entirely nomadic, sheltering at night in small huts, 2ft. to

3 ft. in height. They never go outside the forest. During the whole time I was with them they were perfectly friendly."

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that all observations up to the present time tend to show that the presence of tubercle bacilli in butter is a rare event. Rabinowitsch, whose previous work on this subject was published in 1897, has lately conducted some further experiments in Berlin with the object of testing previous investigations. Fourteen butter manufactories were examined, and 15 experiments made. The produce of one factory was thus examined twice, and tubercle bacilli were found on both occasions in the butter. The remaining 13 showed no trace of true living tubercle bacilli, but in many instances pseudo-tuberculous bacilli were found. Inoculation experiments were made in all cases. During June and July the daily produce coming from the infected factory was examined. The result showed that 70 per cent. of the butter contained living tubercle bacilli. Professor Koch thought this result so remarkable that he requested Rabinowitsch to inspect another factory. In this second experiment no tubercle bacilli were found, but in some instances pseudo-tubercle bacilli had to be carefully differentiated from the true bacilli. Animals when injected with this pseudo-tuberculous material died of peritonitis. The 'isolation' of this butter factory in Berlin, which is a source of danger to the community, is certainly a triumph for the scientific method of food examination. The question whether the pseudo-tuberculous material so often present in butter is harmful to human beings will be a matter for future investigation.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE sum of \$50,000 is given to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology by the will of the late Edward B. Hosmer, of Boston.

BY the will of Mr. David Acheson £10,000 is left to the University of Melbourne for the foundation of scholarships.

THE convocation of the University of the State of New York will be held on June 26th to 28th. President Harper, of the University of Chicago, will deliver the annual address, his

subject being 'Waste in Education.' Superintendent Horace S. Tarbell will present a paper on the schools of that city, describing their methods of dealing with especially bright and especially backward students.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY will spend \$175,000 in the erection of a new building for the department of engineering of the Lawrence Scientific School. The building will be situated on Holmes Field.

THE number of students matriculated at the University of Edinburgh during the past year was 2,813, of whom 211 are women. The enrollment in the different Faculties is as follows: Arts, 817; science, 147; divinity, 63; law, 373; medicine, 1,387; music, 26.

AT a recent meeting of convocation of the University of London the following resolution was carried: That the value of the B.A. degree has been distinctly lowered by the recent changes in the final examination, which enable a candidate to obtain the degree without taking any of those subjects (*e. g.*, mathematics and mental and moral science) which involve a discipline in the more abstract kind of thought.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY some time since established a class somewhat similar to the docents of the German University, though the lectureships are limited to a period not exceeding four months, and the University does not even collect such fees as may be charged. The first lectures under this system are now announced. They are a course on the geology and geography of the oceans by Dr. R. A. Daly and a course on history of the philosophical tendencies of the 19th century by Dr. W. P. Montague.

THE resignation of Dr. D. T. MacDougal, to accept a position in the New York Botanical Garden, leaves a vacancy in the assistant professorship of botany at the University of Minnesota. It will probably be filled at the April meeting of the Board of Regents.

DR. J. TAFEL has been promoted to an assistant professorship of chemistry in the University at Würzburg, and Dr. E. O. Schmidt, of Leipzig, has been made professor of chemistry in the medical school at Cairo. Dr. Otto Nässe, professor of pharmacology in the University at Rostock, has retired.